

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EPA-01 OES-03 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

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R 122255Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2930

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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TAGS EAIR, AS

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCLUSION OF CONCORDE PROVING FLIGHTS TO AUSTRALIA

REF: MELBOURNE 1161

EIGHT DAY SERIES OF CONCORDE SINGAPORE-MELBOURNE PROVING
FLIGHTS CONCLUDED AUG 12. WITH DEPARTURE OF BRITISH AIRWAYS
(BA) SUPERSONIC FROM TULLAMARINE AIRPORT. AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC AND MEDIA REACTION TO CONCORDE FLIGHTS WAS GENERALLY
POSITIVE, OR OF "LET'S GIVE IT A FAIR GO" VARIETY, BUT
WITH A VOCAL MINORITY STILL STRONGLY OPPOSED TO AIRCRAFT'S
POSSIBLE SCHEDULED SERVICE TO MELBOURNE. AUSTRALIAN
FEDERAL GOVT SCIENTISTS MONITORED NOISE LEVELS ACROSS
CONCORDE'S SUPERSONIC OUTBACK TRACK AND AROUND TULLAMARINE
AIRPORT, AND GOVT MAY SCHEDULE OPEN HEARINGS ON
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AIRCRAFT'S OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AFTER TEST RESULTS

ARE ANALYSED. MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, JONES PERSONALLY ASSESSED GROUND LEVEL EFFECTS OF SONIC BOOM AT NULLARBOR PLAINS TESTING STATION, PRONOUNCING BOOM A "NON-EVENT" AND STATING THAT IF QANTAS DETERMINED CONCORDE WAS AN ECONOMIC PROPOSITION, HE WOULD "HEED THEIR ADVICE".

COMMENT: BEGIN LOU: JONES' EVENTUAL APPROVAL OF CONCORDE IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS OF CAMPAIGN TO WIN AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVT PERMISSION FOR SINGAPORE-MELBOURNE SERVICE, NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY, 1976. VIEWS OF TRANSPORT MINISTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN KNOWN WITH CERTAINTY BY AIRCRAFT'S BACKERS UNTIL HIS AUG 8 STATEMENT, FOLLOWING NULLARBOR TRIP; THUS, JONES' COMMITMENT WAS SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO BRITISH AIRWAYS' HOPES FOR APPROVAL OF AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONS. (PM WHITLAM, AFTER MELBOURNE-SINGAPORE CONCORDE FLIGHT, ALSO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON AIRCRAFT). END LOU.
BRAND

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